

# CFV

## Mission and Objectives

### Mission

To develop and promote the co-operative movement as a means of satisfying the economic and social needs of people.

### Objectives

Help improve the performance of member co-operatives in the provision of services to their members.

Make representations to government on legislation and policies to facilitate the development of co-operatives.

Promote co-operatives to the public.

Facilitate and promote the formation of co-operatives.

Educate co-operative members and the community at large in co-operative principles and practices.

Facilitate co-operation between co-operatives.

The Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd has been appointed a steward for the .Coop Community Name program and has established australia.coop for this purpose. -the first country .coop established throughout the world.

Co-operative community names are only awarded to eligible co-operative organisations. australia.coop is a portal for the co-operative movement in Australia.

*Co-operatives are unique -  
a co-operative difference that  
creates a co-operative advantage.*

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ONE MEMBER.ONE VOTE.ONE DOMAIN

## What is a Co-operative?

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**Co-operative  
Federation of  
Victoria Ltd**



**Our Co-operative Advantage**

## What is a Co-operative?

A co-operative is a business - a form of business enterprise that is different from private and public enterprises. Co-operatives are owned and controlled by their member users.

The range of co-operatives is unlimited e.g.

**Agricultural** - fishing, forestry, producer, supply and marketing co-operatives.

**Community service** - aged care and child care co-operatives.

**Credit** - financial service co-operatives

**Education** - school, student and supply co-operatives

**Housing** - community settlement and housing co-operatives

**Media** - newspaper, radio station, telecommunications, television station, video production and publishing co-operatives.

**Recreational** - game park and urban camp co-operatives.

**Store** - bookshops, food, hardware, clothing and other merchandise co-operatives.

**Transport** - bus, courier and taxi co-operatives.

**Utility co-operatives** - electricity, gas, telephone and water service co-operatives.

Co-operatives are different because they are democratic, open, voluntary and community-based. They reflect and reinforce co-operative values and principles

## The Co-operative Difference

|              | Co-operatives   | Investor-owned companies   |
|--------------|---|--|
| Purpose      | Service-driven.   | Capital-driven.  |
| Ownership    | The member users.   | Investor shareholders.   |
| Control      | Majority of members. The member users elect a board on the basis of one vote per member | Majority of shares. The investor shareholders control the company based on how many shares they own. |
| Use          | The users of co-operative are its members.  | Users are not usually a majority of shareholders.  |
| Shareholding | Shareholding and nonshareholding. Limited number and interest                           | Shareholding. Unlimited number and interest.   |

## Co-operative Values & Principles

Co-operatives are unique businesses that are based on explicit values and principles articulated in the International Co-operative Alliance's Statement on the Co-operative Identity adopted in 1995.

### Definition

A co-operative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

### Values

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, cooperative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

### Principles

The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice.

### 1st Principle: Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

### 2nd Principle: Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

### 3rd Principle: Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

### 4th Principle: Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

### 5th Principle: Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

### 6th Principle: Cooperation among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

### 7th Principle: Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

Author: International Co-operative Alliance, 1995

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